

0434. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS WIFE AND SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Man[n]heim*¹

My dear wife and
my dear son!

Salzburg, 5th March,
1778.

[5] Since you will have received my letter² of the 2nd March only on the 7th or 8th, my thoughts are that you will not be able to leave before the 15th,³ for I suspect that the post-coach only goes once a week. But on the 15th you must be on your way. That is why am writing to you again because you could receive this letter on the 11th. In my last letter,⁴ I informed you that [10] esteemed Baron von Grimm⁵ had written to me and of what he wrote to me; furthermore, that I had had a letter sent to Herr Herzog⁶ etc. so that you could take out 4 or 5 louis d'or⁷ more in Manheim. The chaise⁸ will by now have been sold as advantageously as was possible; but if you have once again left everything to the last moment, it is your fault, for I reminded you about everything in good time, [15] as well as about the baggage, coffre,⁹ post-coach and all other incidental costs. It is simply a matter of thinking of nothing except your own business, doing everything immediately, and not letting yourselves be held up by anyone. One main point is not to be forgotten, namely to provide yourselves with no money other than louis d'or¹⁰ and wreath thalers, for you will not be able to use any other money after Strassburg. [20] Pay the diligence¹¹ from Manheim while still in Manheim, and that kind of money will be valid until Strasburg. This calls for careful attention and a word with merchants, especially with Herr Schmalz.¹² I do not know if Herr Herzog will write to you: since Herr Schmalz now knows you, he will probably give you the money. [25] But have them give you louis d'or, you cannot take anything else, for silver money is too inconvenient on the journey, especially since you have to keep it on your person. For God's sake, do not lose a minute in getting everything prepared that you need, for if you come to Paris late, little can be done, it takes time to make acquaintances, the place is too big, and people here and there go into the country. [30] You must make the acquaintances as long as the people are all together, otherwise you will ruin everything again, and it will go as it has been going up till now: everything I have built up you have torn down again, and everything that I did at your suggestion turned out in the end to be nothing again. Now nothing can be done except to think ahead. [35] Despite not having had to pay to either board or lodgings, you have both spent money enough. Since money will now be spent every day, one must think ahead, for you will have no more earnings in

¹ = "To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, music director in Mannheim".

² BD: No. 0433.

³ BD: This date has already been planned, cf. No. 0405/50.

⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0433/124 ff.

⁵ "H: Baron von Grimm". BD: Friedrich Melchior von Grimm (1723-1807), 1748 private secretary to the Saxon Count [Graf] Friese, with whom he moved to Paris, where he was in contact with the Encyclopaedists. Various publications, one of which, in 1763, mentioned the Mozart children. His relationship with Mozart broke down in 1778 during the latter's stay in Paris.

⁶ BD: Shareholder in the Augsburg banking firm Nocker und Schiedl. Cf. Nos. 0373/82, 95; 433/160-162.

⁷ BD: Can be taken as 1 louis d'or = 11 florins.

⁸ BD: Wolfgang and his mother travelled to Mannheim in the family chaise, which was now to be sold. Cf. Nos. 0426/86-87; 0431/105 ff.

⁹ = "Chest".

¹⁰ BD: Leopold had done some conversion calculations for these coins, cf. No. 0433/72 ff.

¹¹ BD: Large coach, typically used for regular mail routes and also providing room for passengers.

¹² BD: Dietrich Heinrich Schmalz (1720-1797), son of the banker Philipp Lorenz Schmalz. Involved in credit for Wolfgang in Mannheim. Cf. No. 0373/81.

Manheim. The packet of music¹³ will soon be in your hands. – You know our circumstances. You have reason enough to watch every kreuzer¹⁴ – I have never been in such circumstances before! [40] I pray to God that He will send Wolfg. better fortune in Paris. I assure you that everything depends on a lively pursuing of his business, depending on the various circumstances – pursuing it with fervour, and it is his good luck that Baron von Grimm is in Paris. He must entrust himself entirely to him and do everything that he tells him and the way he tells him. [45] For this reason one must make use of the time when one has it.

Baron von Grimm could receive new orders, and once again¹⁵ have to travel in spring: then you would again be in a fix. For if it continued this way, everything we have would be owed, and all at once we would be poor people and in the end, none of us could help each other. [50] I have made every effort in all of my letters to tell you the truth as it is, but it seems to me as if all these letters were only read through quickly on the surface, with half an eye, and then cast aside. I beg you, for God's sake, simply read them frequently, attentively and thoughtfully, and in future be concerned for oneself alone, instead of always for others [50] and being everybody's servant. I have already replied¹⁶ to Baron von Grimm and told him all about why Wolfg. did not go to Paris with Herr Wendling,¹⁷ and that he had proffered other reasons to him – in the meantime, you have perhaps also received a letter from Wendling. [60] I am writing this to make sure you tell Baron Grimm the truth as it is. Now, the one measure alone, that I have organised a further 5 *louis d'or*¹⁸ in Manheim, is not sufficient, and I must certainly also make arrangements for you to take out some *louis d'or* in Paris if needed, since they will not throw you money immediately you arrive. [65] Now I must organise a letter of introduction for you: as soon as you take a room, therefore, you must send me the address. In the meantime, nevertheless, I must think out another arrangement so that you do not get stuck. The most urgent thing, however, is to give me immediate news of your lodgings as soon as you have them. Baron von Grimm will not be able to lodge you, [70] that is not to be expected. You could therefore enquire from Msr. Mayer.¹⁹ Keep well, this is the last letter, you will definitely travel on the 15th. God preserve you, give you good luck on the journey; Nannerl and I kiss you a million times and together with her I am, faithful until death, your Mzt

Just in case, I am writing out the address²⁰ of Baron von Grimm again here. [75] Rue de la Chausse d'Antin, près le Boulevard.

¹³ BD: Wolfgang had asked for a number of arias to be sent from Salzburg, largely with Aloisia Weber in mind. Cf. Nos. 0419/120-121; 0430/39 ff.

¹⁴ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

¹⁵ BD: Grimm had just got back from Russia, cf. No. 0427/14-15.

¹⁶ BD: No. 0442, lost.

¹⁷ BD: The flautist Johann Baptist Wendling (1723-1797); his brother was the violinist Franz Anton Wendling (1729-1786). For the various members of the family Mozart wrote KV 487a (295a), KV 307 (284d) and perhaps KV 368. He also wrote an instrumentation of a flute concerto by J.B. Wendling. The original plan was for Wolfgang to travel to Paris in one coach with the musicians Wendling and Ramm and the dancer Lauchéry, while his mother was to return to Salzburg. Cf. Nos. 0383/58 ff.; 0427/12-13.

¹⁸ BD: Approx. 55 florins. Cf. lines 10-12; No. 0433/160-162.

¹⁹ BD: Paris agent for the Augsburg/Frankfurt merchant Arbauer (cf. No. 0422/181). Mozart and his mother were to stay with him after their arrival in Paris in 1778 (cf. Nos. 0433/28; 0422/183; 0425/65; 0439/95).

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0433/154-155.